

ANNEX G: FORESTHILL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

G.1 District Profile

Figure G.1 shows the area covered by the Foresthill Fire Protection District (FFPD).

Figure G.1. Foresthill Fire Protection District

Need District Map

The Foresthill Fire Protection District (FFPD) serves the greater Foresthill area including Todd Valley, Baker Ranch, Michigan Bluff, and Sugar Pine. The district provides local advanced life support to the community following the merge with Foresthill Ambulance Service. Fire stations located in Foresthill and Todd Valley respond to structure and wildland fires, vehicle accidents, and medical emergencies. The District is staffed by a combination of paid and volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics. The FFPD was created in April of 1946, after over 15 years of service by the Foresthill Volunteer Fire Department.

Foresthill is located on a broad ridge between the North and Middle Forks of the American River. The Foresthill community covers approximately 11.2 square miles and is located at an elevation of 3,228 feet.

The community of Foresthill, California was founded in 1850 during the California Gold Rush when prospectors swarmed over the Sierra Nevada Mountain divide between the North and Middle Forks of the American River. After the gold played out, many Foresthill settlers turned to logging the tall trees that cover the divide and a dozen lumber mills were established in and around Foresthill. The harvesting of timber, just like gold, eventually became too costly to pursue and the mills were closed, causing many of the residents to seek employment "off the hill" in nearby Auburn and even Sacramento.

Foresthill, however, was not "down-and-out." With the wonderful outdoor recreational opportunities of the Tahoe National Forest, beautiful lakes and snow covered mountains, and the improvement of Foresthill Road during the 1990s by the Federal Government, people seem to have rediscovered the Foresthill Divide. Land values are on the rise, beautiful new homes are springing up throughout the woods, and the new Foresthill High School makes K thru 12 education a unique mountain-top experience.

In the Foresthill area, wildland fire suppression is the primary responsibility of CDF and the USFS, with additional support provided through mutual aid. FFPD has primary responsibility for non-wildland fire incidents that include structure fires, vehicular fires, extreme weather events, mass casualty incidents, etc.

G.2 Hazard Identification and Summary

The FFPD's planning team identified the hazards that affect the District and summarized their frequency of occurrence, spatial extent, potential magnitude, and significance specific to the District (see Table G.1).

Table G.1. FFPD—Hazard Summaries

Hazard	Probability of Occurrence	Spatial Extent	Potential Magnitude	Significance
Agricultural Hazards	Occasional	Limited	Critical	Medium
Avalanche	Unlikely			
Dam Failure	Unlikely			
Drought	Occasional	Limited	Catastrophic	High
Earthquake	Unlikely			
Flood (100-year)	Unlikely			
Flood (Stormwater)	Unlikely			
Human Health Hazards:				
West Nile Virus	Unlikely			
Landslide	Highly Likely	Limited	Limited	High
Severe Weather:				
Extreme Cold/Freeze	Likely	Extensive	Catastrophic	High
Extreme Heat	Likely	Extensive	Catastrophic	High
Fog	Highly Likely	Significant	Critical	High
Heavy Rain/ Thunderstorm/Hail/ Lightning/Wind	Highly Likely	Extensive	Catastrophic	High
Snow (was Winter Storm)	Highly Likely	Significant	Critical	High
Tornado	Unlikely			
Soil Hazards:				
Erosion	Likely	Limited	Limited	Low
Expansive Soils	Unlikely			
Volcano	Unlikely			
Wildfire	Likely	Extensive	Catastrophic	High

Guidelines for Hazard Rankings Frequency of Occurrence:

Highly Likely—Near 100 percent probability in next year

Likely—Between 10 and 100 percent probability in next year or at least one chance in ten years

Occasional—Between 1 and 10 percent probability in next year or at least one chance in next 100 years

Unlikely-Less than 1 percent probability in next 100 years

Spatial Extent

Limited—Less than 10 percent of planning area Significant—10-50 percent of planning area Extensive—50-100 percent of planning area

Source: FFPD

Potential Magnitude:

Catastrophic—More than 50 percent of area affected
Critical—25 to 50 percent
Limited—10 to 25 percent
Negligible—Less than 10 percent

Significance (subjective):

Low, Medium, High

Impacts of past events and vulnerability to specific hazards are discussed below (see Section 4.1 Hazard Identification for more detailed information about these hazards and their impacts on Placer County).

G.3 Vulnerability Assessment

The intent of this section is to assess the District's vulnerability separate from that of the planning area as a whole, which has already been assessed in Section 4.3 Vulnerability Assessment in the main plan. For more information about how hazards affect the County as a whole, see Chapter 4 Risk Assessment in the main plan.

G.3.1 Assets at Risk

This section considers the District's assets at risk, specifically critical facilities and infrastructure, natural resources, and growth and development trends. Table G.2 lists District assets identified by representatives from the FFPD as important to protect in the event of a disaster.

Table G.2. FFPD—Critical Facilities, Infrastructure, and Other District Assets

Name of Asset	Туре	Replacement Value
FFPD St 88	Essential	
FFPD St 90	Essential	
FFPD Admin	Essential	
Blaylocks	Economics	
Foresthill High School	HPLF	
Foresthill Middle School	HPLF	
Foresthill Elementary School	HPLF	
Foresthill Public Utilites	T&L	
American River Watershed	NCHS	
Timber	EA	
Foresthill Road	T&L	
Sheriff Substation	Essential	

Source: FFPD

It is important to note that there are several elderly, disabled, and low income people in the Foresthill area. In the case of a wildfire evacuation, these people may not have transportation. Likewise, in the event of a power outage during the winter months, these special populations may not be able to get to a shelter for warmth.

Natural Resources

Several state or federally listed species as identified in Section 4.3 of the base plan may be found within the District boundaries. However, data specific to the District was unavailable, thus an accurate assessment of sensitive species and habitats present within District boundaries could not be made.

Growth and Development Trends

Foresthill Divide is located between the Middle Fork and North Fork of the American River. With the views in the area, developers are planning subdivisions on the canyon rims directly adjacent to unmaintained Bureau of Reclamation lands.

According to the 2007 Capital Improvement Plan for the District, the 2007 service population was estimated at 7,300. Using the plan's 3 percent assumed growth rate, new development is anticipated to increase the service population between 2007 and 2030 by 7,100 for a total service population of 14,300 by year 2030. The plan indicates that an estimated \$12.6 million in capital improvements will be necessary by 2030 to meet the growing demands of the District's service area.

As Foresthill grows there will be further demand for emergency services, more vehicle accidents, and more fires. The development of the commercial property will bring with it, an increase in use and storage of hazardous chemicals and associated environmental concerns.

G.3.2 Estimating Potential Losses

Agricultural Hazards

The FFPD is located in an area where pine forests and logging are considered agriculture. As such, drought and wildfire, including the affects of the Pine Beetle are considered hazards to the agricultural industry. Most recently, the area is starting to see the affects of the current drought. Several areas in the forests are showing signs of Pine Beetle infestation which will lead to greater fire danger when the trees die and become tinder for any spark.

Drought

As described above, drought is a significant hazard, especially to the forested areas of the FFPD. Drought conditions stress and leave the forest susceptible to disease and insect infestation. As a result of recent drought conditions throughout California, infestations of the Pine Beatle are on the rise. Several areas within the District forests show signs of Pine Beatle and thus will become more vulnerable to wildfire. Drought conditions also may impact the water supply of people residing within District boundaries.

Landslides

Given the geology, climate, and terrain of the District, landslides can be a significant concern. Notable landslides of record include the landslides occurring in January 1987 and April 2006:

• **January 1987** – Saturated soils and excess water caused a large scale slide at Iowa Hill Road, just east of the bridge. This slide, approximately ¼ mile in size, closed the road for six months, necessitating Iowa Hill residents to detour through Foresthill and down through Colfax. Landslides in this area are common due to the steep terrain.

- April 2006 Saturated soils and excess water resulting in a slide losing Yankee Jims Road, just east of the Bridge. Landslides are also common in this area due to the steep terrain.
- April 2006 Excess water, saturated soils and two resulting slides have damaged Foresthill Road east of Drivers Flat Road. Significant cracking and road slippage continues to compromise the pavement in both slide areas. Repairs began on the road once conditions had sufficiently dried out.

Severe Weather: Extreme temperatures – Hot and Cold

Please briefly describe the hazard and how it specifically affects the district. Provide any notable past occurrences and impacts to the District.

Severe Weather: Fog

Please briefly describe the hazard and how it specifically affects the district. Provide any notable past occurrences and impacts to the District.

Severe Weather: Heavy Rain/Thunderstorm/Hail

Heavy rain, thunderstorm activity, and hail usually occur on an annual basis in the FFPD service area. Often during these events, utilities can be impacted. The loss of electricity could be hours or days. In January of 2008, severe winds and rain knocked down trees, downed powerlines, and damaged structures. Several homes and businesses were damaged; one home was lost to fire.

• Other details???

Severe Weather: Snow

Extreme winter weather events are a major concern to the District. Snow and winter weather conditions can close Foresthill road in the winter, stranding Iowa Hill residents. The District did not identify any past events resulting in significant damage.

• Other details???

Wildfire

Several communities served by District are listed on the National Fire Plan's "Communities at Risk" list as set forth in Section 4.3.2 of the main plan. These include the communities of: Baker Ranch, Foresthill, Hidden Treasure, Michigan Bluff, Shirttail, Sugar Pine Reservoir, Todd Valley, and Yankee Jims.

Over one hundred years of aggressive fire suppression under the national fire suppression policy has rendered wildlands severely overgrown. Much of the private land in the District's area is in the wildland urban interface with increasing residential development.

As more people move into the area and impacts from recreational demands increase, there will be more human-caused wildfire starts each year. The increased number of widely scattered homes within the District adds greatly to the danger, complexity, and cost of fighting these fires.

Currently, many of the communities in the District are limited to one route access and egress in the event of a major wildfire. Historically, these routes are closed during major events, stranding many people, including visitors, away from their families and homes.

Forest overgrowth due to the efficiency of modern firefighting techniques, and to society's current election to limit forest thinning and harvesting, is a serious problem. If wildfire does not impact the forest first, native insects will eventually kill millions of trees. Explosions in insect populations usually start during a drought, when the lack of water combined with too many trees per acre render the trees to weak to fight off the insect attacks. Without a change in management practices on public lands, there is little hope of avoiding a kill off of trees similar to the kill off experienced by other national forests.

The rural nature within the District boundaries makes the area particularly susceptible to fire due to the heavily forested, cross-compartmented nature of the terrain. The abundance of natural fuels, coupled with extreme low humidity common in the area during fires season, creates potentially volatile situations for both residents and responders. The most notable, recent wildfire to impact the District occurred in September of 2006. This wildland fire, started by a campfire on Ralston Ridge outside of Foresthill, grew to over 4,000 acres in size. The towns of Michigan Bluff, Foresthill and Volcano were threatened. Infrastructure damage primarily involved damage to power lines

G.4 Capability Assessment

Capabilities are the programs and policies currently in use to reduce hazard impacts or that could be used to implement hazard mitigation activities. This capabilities assessment is divided into five sections: regulatory mitigation capabilities; administrative and technical mitigation capabilities; fiscal mitigation capabilities; mitigation outreach and partnerships; and other mitigation efforts.

G.4.1 Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Table G.4 lists regulatory mitigation capabilities, including planning and land management tools, typically used by local jurisdictions to implement hazard mitigation activities and indicates those that are in place in the FFPD.

Table G.4. FFPD's Regulatory Mitigation Capabilities

Regulatory Tool	Yes/No	Comments
General plan	Yes	Foresthill General Plan

Regulatory Tool	Yes/No	Comments
Zoning ordinance	Yes	See Placer County
Subdivision ordinance	Yes	Foresthill Fire Protection District
Site plan review requirements	Yes	Deputy Fire Marshal Duties
Growth management ordinance	Yes	Foresthill General Plan
Floodplain ordinance	No	See Placer County
Other special purpose ordinance (stormwater, water conservation, wildfire)	No	Local Fire Prevention Code
Building code	Yes	National Fie Plan adopted by Placer County
Erosion or sediment control program	No	
Storm water management program	No	
Capital improvements plan	Yes	Revised 2008
Economic development plan	No	
Local emergency operations plan	Yes	Foresthill/Iowa Hill Emergency Plan
Other special plans	Yes	Foresthill/Iowa Hill Risk Assessment Plan and Placer County CWPP
Flood Insurance Study or other engineering study for streams	No	

Source: FFPD

As indicated above, the District has several programs, plans, policies, and codes and ordinances that guide hazard mitigation. Some of these are described in more detail below.

Codes and Ordinances

FFPD, through Placer County has adopted the 2007 California Fire Code. FFPD also defers to Public Resource Codes 4290 (Fire Safe Access) and 4291 (Defensible Space). The Fire Marshal reviews pre-development plans for ingress and egress, Fire Flow requirements, fire hydrant placement, and placement of shaded fuel breaks. Plan reviews for single family residence in and out of hydrant areas are done as well to ensure proper access and water supply for fire suppression.

Foresthill/Iowa Hill, Community Wildfire Protection Plan, 2006

The Foresthill/Iowa Hill CWPP summarizes wildfire dangers and issues within the Foresthill/Iowa Hill areas. The CWPP also catalogs community wildfire protection needs and identifies corrective action and community projects that will mitigate some of the problems. Communities served by the CWPP with prioritized projects include: Michigan Bluff, Baker Ranch, Foresthill, Todd Valley, Yankee Jims, Shirttail, Sugar Pin Reservoir, Hidden Treasure, Iowa Hill, Kings Hill, Big Dipper, and Roach Hill.

Foresthill/Iowa Hill Risk Assessment Plan, 2006

The Foresthill/Iowa Hill Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategies (RAMS) process helps provide consistent out-year planning for fire mitigation activities, prevention education, and fuels treatment/biomass programs. RAMS prioritizes fire management units and communities by risk and hazard and develops a strategic out-year budget and program of work for the Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council. This RAMS Plan is an amendment to the Placer County Fire Plan/Placer County CWPP, and represents information that was developed collaboratively by members of the Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council and cooperating State and Federal agencies.

Capital Improvement Plan, 2007

The Capital Improvement Plan for the District identifies and budgets projects for new public facilities that will be needed to serve the FFPD projected development and increase in service population through 2030.

Foresthill Divide, Iowa Hill Divide Emergency Plan, 2006

The Emergency Plan for the area provides specific planning information, direction, and coordination guidance on a functional as well as an organizational basis for first responding and contributing agencies facing emergencies in the Foresthill and Iowa Hill areas.

G.4.2 Administrative/Technical Mitigation Capabilities

The District is staffed by a combination of paid and volunteer firefighters, EMTs, and paramedics. The FFPD was created in April of 1946, after over 15 years of service by the Foresthill Volunteer Fire Department. The FFPD presently employs a staff of 53, including a Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Marshal, Administrative Captain, three Battalion Chiefs, two Station Captains, three Lieutenants, an administrative assistant, EMTs, Firefighters, and paramedics, and is run by a five person Board of Directors.

Three fire stations house the fire engines, brush units, rescue units, a water tender, and three ambulances. Fire Station 88 is located on Gold Street, Station 89 on Foresthill Road near the Placer County corporate yard, and Station 90 is at the intersection of Foresthill Road and Happy Pines Road. The District office is located at 24320 Main Street at the old Safety Club building.

Table G.5 identifies the personnel responsible for activities related to mitigation and loss prevention in the District.

Table G.5. FFPD's Administrative and Technical Mitigation Capabilities

Personnel Resources	Yes/ No	Department/Position	Comments
Planner/engineer with knowledge of land development/land management practices	Yes	Deputy Fire Marshal	Comments
Engineer/professional trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	Yes	Deputy Fire Marshal	
Planner/engineer/scientist with an understanding of natural hazards	No		
Personnel skilled in GIS	Yes	Foresthill/Iowa Hill Firesafe Council GIS Volunteer	
Full-time building official	Yes	Deputy Fire Marshal	
Floodplain manager	No		
Emergency manager	Yes	Fire Chief	
Grant writer	Yes	Captain (Administrative Manager)	
Other personnel	Yes	Firefighting personnel	
GIS Data—Hazard areas	Yes	Maps	
GIS Data—Critical Facilities	Yes		Pre-Fire Plan
GIS Data—Building Footprints	Yes		Pre-Fire Plan
GIS Data—Land use	Yes	Placer County Database	
GIS Data—Links to Assessor's data	Yes	Placer County	
Warning systems/services (Reverse 9-11, outdoor warning signals)	Yes	Teleminder	

Source: FFPD

G.4.3 Fiscal Mitigation Capabilities

Table G.6 identifies financial tools or resources that the District could potentially use to help fund mitigation activities.

Table G.6. FFPD's Fiscal Mitigation Capabilities

Financial Resources	Accessible/Eligible to Use (Yes/No)	Comments
Community Development Block Grants	No	
Capital improvements project funding	Yes	
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Yes	Special District (through vote of public)
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric services	No	
Impact fees for new development	Yes	

Financial Resources	Accessible/Eligible to Use (Yes/No)	Comments
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes	
Incur debt through special tax bonds	Yes	
Incur debt through private activities	No	
Withhold spending in hazard prone areas	No	

Source: FFPD

G.4.4 Mitigation Outreach and Partnerships

FFPD has many mutual aid agreements and partnerships in place to ensure the safety of the people and property within District Boundaries. Partnerships and/or mutual aid agreements are in place with the following entities:

- CalFire
- USFS
- BLM
- Placer County Sheriff's Office
- Placer County OES
- California Highway Patrol (CHP)
- American Medical Response (AMR)
- American Red Cross
- Placer County Water Agency

The FFPD works closely with the Foresthill/Iowa Hill fires Safe Council, CAL FIRE, USFS, BLM, and private land owners.

G.4.5. Other Mitigation Efforts

The District is involved in a variety of mitigation activities including, public education, fuels management projects, and other activities to reduce fuel loads and fire risk. These mitigation activities include:

- Defensible space inspections
- Continual fire safety education
- In process of becoming a Firewise Community
- Firewise workshop
- Firesafe Council
- Business Inspections
- Fire Education in Schools
- Shaded fuel breaks within Foresthill/Iowa Hill areas
- Fuel Reduction Projects
- Fuels Reduction: Chipper Program

G.5 Mitigation Strategy

G.5.1 Mitigation Goals and Objectives

The Foresthill Fire Protection District adopts the hazard mitigation goals and objectives developed by the HMPC and described in Chapter 5 Mitigation Strategy.

G.5.2 Mitigation Actions

The planning team for the FFPD identified and prioritized the following mitigation actions based on the risk assessment. Background information and information on how each action will be implemented and administered, such as ideas for implementation, responsible office, partners, potential funding, estimated cost, and schedule are included.

1. Completion of Fuels Management Projects within the Foresthill/lowa Hill Fire Safe Council, Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council and Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Areas of the Western Slope of Placer County.

Issues/background: The consequences of large wildfires in Placer County are a significant concern to its residents, decision-makers, and the three local Fire Safe Councils on the western slope of the County. The planning area of the three fire safe councils consists of approximately 248,000 acres of diverse vegetation, with the majority covered by hardwood and conifer woodlands. Given the vegetation types in the area and the historic Fire Return Intervals (FRI), approximately 14,000 acres could burn annually if steps are not taken to provide prevention programs.

The western slope fire safe councils with the help of local fire agencies have defined 35 projects covering 3,245 acres. These projects consist of roadside hazard reduction, vegetation treatments, fuel breaks, and vegetation removal projects.

Other Alternatives: Continue to educate the public and private landowners on the need to take mitigation measures to prevent catastrophic wildfires from occurring in their area. The limited individual efforts may help some, but the need to establish large connected fuel breaks and defensible space zones are critical.

Responsible Office: Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council, Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council, Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council, and Placer County Fire Safe Alliance.

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: The total cost estimate of \$4.7 million is needed to treat 3,245 acres at an average cost of approximately \$1,450 per acre.

Benefits (losses Avoided): Using the unincorporated areas of Placer County as an example, there are 624 parcels in the Very High category of "Values at Risk", and over 56,000 properties in the High "Values At Risk" category. With a median home value of \$259,000 in the Sacrament region, the loss of 10 homes plus suppression cost would significantly surpass the cost of the planned mitigation projects.

Potential Funding: Grants, loans and subsidies available for such projects.

Schedule: These projects would be ongoing through the period of this document. Grant funding is generally available through yearly cycles and would be sought for specific projects prioritized by each independent Fire Safe Council.

2. Foresthill Biomass Project

Issue/Background: The mission of the Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council is to protect natural resources, human life, and property improvements by mobilizing all citizens to help them make their homes, neighborhoods and the community fire safe. The reduction of excess vegetation a.k.a. fuels in the area is one of our focus statements. Clearing the forests of fuels makes them more healthy and sustainable and fire resistant. Recycling those fuels and turning them into energy makes it cheaper or even profitable to remove these fuels. It also offers an alternative energy source to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and foreign oil. It would stimulate the economy of the local area with jobs to clear and haul fuels, run a plant and market wood byproducts such as soil amendments, particle board, wood chips, and many others.

Other Alternatives: No action leaves our forests severely over grown with brush and a fire hazard to the whole community. Continued mastication of fuels, which is very expensive and does not remove the fuels from the forest.

Responsible Office: Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council: Chairman Luana R. Dowling.

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: Costs will vary depending on the size of the biomass plant. A beginning estimate is \$300,000 for a small plant to power a building the size of the high school. The cost to put a plant on the ground, collect, haul, and convert the fuels to energy and/or products – and how much money can be made via selling energy to the grid and selling wood by-products is still to be determined.

Cost Benefit: By combining fuels recycling with fuels removal, it becomes economically advantageous to remove fuels, whereas the current method of chipping the fuels and leaving them on the forest floor is very expensive, and less effective because fuels are not removed, merely rearranged, and no use is made of the woody remains after fuels treatment.

Potential Funding: Grants, loans and subsidies available for such projects.

Schedule: 1-3 years

3. Assess and Enhance Foresthill Fire Protection District (FFPD) New Subdivision, Hazard Fuels Clearing and Maintenance Ordinance. Put Programs in Place with Homeowners Associations in CC&R's and Maintenance Contracts.

Issue/Background: Rapid containment of wildfires and structure fires are a high priority for the FFPD. This project would evaluate appropriate requirements for hazard fuel clearing and maintenance and propose an ordinance for adoption by the Foresthill Fire Protection District Board of Directors. This ordinance will be based on the State Standard on Hazard Fuels Reduction for Suburban and Rural areas and/or on the Urban-Wildland Interface Code.

Other Alternatives: The alternative is to continue to rely solely upon the land developer and subsequent absentee property owners to provide hazard fuels reduction and maintenance. This has been attempted with other subdivisions in the Foresthill area, and the results are not acceptable.

Responsible Office: Fire Chief Kurt Snyder, Foresthill Fire Protection District.

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: The cost to evaluate requirements and prepare the ordinance would come out of normal operating expenses. The cost to the developers of the subdivisions approximately \$1,200 per acre initially. Maintenance would be minimal if kept up on a yearly basis. If added to Homeowners Association CC&Rs it would be easier to implement.

Cost Benefit: Homes in the FFPD area are presently valued at a median price of over \$400,000 with many homes selling for a far higher cost. The \$1,200 per acre cost to the developer for hazard fuels reduction represents one-half of one percent of the value of the median home price. Hazard Fuels Reduction and Maintenance is an inexpensive way to improve fire suppression capabilities for a home. It also increases the fire safety of the surrounding homes and wildlands because the faster a structure or wildland fire is contained, the less likelihood that it will spread.

Potential Funding: Grants, loans and subsidies available for such projects.

Schedule: Complete assessment and ordinance proposal by the end of calendar year 2010.

4. Todd Valley Shaded Fuel Break

Issue/Background: Saving lives and property along with rapid containment of wildfires and structure fires are a high priority for the Foresthill Fire Protection District (FFPD) and Foresthill Fire Safe Council (FFSC). The Todd Valley Subdivision is a neighborhood of about 1,100 homes located southeast of Foresthill, CA in rural Placer County. Encompassing some 1,500 acres, and 45 miles of roadways, with only two main exits to Foresthill Rd. The southern boundary of the 25-year-old subdivision directly intersects the steep cliffs of the Middle Fork of the American River. Lot sizes are all one acre or more. To the 3,000 people who live there, Todd Valley appears to be an isolated enclave, sheltered by towering oaks and pine trees. Many

homes are shielded from neighbor's views by a quarter-century accumulation of dense brush and impenetrable vegetation under story. The calculations for fire travel from the Middle Fork American River to this subdivision in the middle of summer on the right day is 15 minutes.

A shaded fuel break at the top of the ridge of the Middle Fork American River Canyon would give firefighters a place to make a stand and allow an area for the fire to slow and drop to the ground where it can be managed. This would also give sheriffs and firefighters a better chance to evacuate the area.

Other Alternatives: If you look at the fire history on the Foresthill Divide its not a question of IF but WHEN will we have a devastating wildfire. To do nothing in the Todd Valley area would leave residents open to a devastating firestorm. The Placer County Chipper Program has been used very successfully in this area, but is still far from making a significant continuous connected shaded fuel break. Continuous public education is also an alternative.

Responsible Office: Luana R. Dowling: FFSC Chairman

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: Approximately \$1,200 per acre. 50/50 match with property owners and a Federal Grant. The Property in the canyon is State Recreation area owned by Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). This recreation area has been the area of several fire starts in the past. It's only a matter of time.

Cost Benefit: Benefit to the 3,000 residents of Todd Valley is their lives as well as their homes. At the current County median value per home of over \$400,000 per home, the 1,100 homes in Todd Valley are valued at \$440,000,000. Having a strategically planned shaded fuel break will not only save lives, but also assist firefighters in gaining timely access to protect homes.

Potential Funding: Grants, loans and subsidies available for such projects.

Schedule: An initial phase (Phase 1) has been funded through a National Fire Plan grant and will be completed in August of 2009. Phase 2, if funded will be completed in 2011.

5. Completion of Fuels Management Projects within the Foresthill/lowa Hill Fire Safe Council, Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council and Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Areas of the Western Slope of Placer County.

Issues/background: The consequences of large wildfires in Placer County are a significant concern to its residents, decision-makers, and the three local Fire Safe Councils on the western slope of the County. The planning area of the three fire safe councils consists of approximately 248,000 acres of diverse vegetation, with the majority covered by hardwood and conifer woodlands. Given the vegetation types in the area and the historic Fire Return Intervals (FRI), approximately 14,000 acres could burn annually if steps are not taken to provide prevention programs.

The western slope fire safe councils with the help of local fire agencies have defined 35 projects covering 3,245 acres. These projects consist of roadside hazard reduction, vegetation treatments, fuel breaks, and vegetation removal projects.

Other Alternatives: Continue to educate the public and private landowners on the need to take mitigation measures to prevent catastrophic wildfires from occurring in their area. The limited individual efforts may help some, but the need to establish large connected fuel breaks and defensible space zones are critical.

Responsible Office: Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council, Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council, Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council, and Placer County Fire Safe Alliance.

Priority (H, M, L): High

Cost Estimate: The total cost estimate of \$4.7 million is needed to treat 3,245 acres at an average cost of approximately \$1,450 per acre.

Benefits (losses Avoided): Using the unincorporated areas of Placer County as an example, there are 624 parcels in the Very High category of "Values at Risk," and over 56,000 properties in the High "Values At Risk" category. With a median home value of \$259,000 in the Sacrament region, the loss of 10 homes plus suppression cost would significantly surpass the cost of the planned mitigation projects.

Potential Funding: Grants, loans and subsidies available for such projects.

Schedule: These projects would be ongoing through the period of this document. Grant funding is generally available through yearly cycles and would be sought for specific projects prioritized by each independent Fire Safe Council.